

THIN FILM MAGNETIC HEAD AND

METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME

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This is a Divisional of U.S. Application No. 09/708,628, filed on November 9, 2000, the contents of which are incorporated herein in its entirety.

now US. PAT. 6,657,815

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The invention relates to a thin film magnetic head comprising at least an inductive magnetic transducer for writing and a method of manufacturing the same.

Description of the Related Art

In recent years, performance improvement in thin film magnetic heads has been sought in accordance with an increase in surface recording density of a hard disk drive. As a thin film magnetic head, a composite thin film magnetic head has been widely used. A composite thin film magnetic head has a layered structure which includes a recording head with an inductive magnetic transducer for writing and a reproducing head with a magnetoresistive device (referred to as MR device in the followings) for reading-out. There are a few types of MR devices : one is an AMR device that utilizes an anisotropic magnetoresistive effect (referred to as AMR effect in the followings) and the other is a GMR device that utilizes a giant magnetoresistive effect (referred to as GMR effect in the followings). A reproducing head using the AMR device is called an AMR head or simply an MR head. A reproducing head using the GMR device is called a GMR head. The AMR head is used as a reproducing head whose surface recording density is more than 1 gigabit per square inch. The GMR head is used as a